The Fort Erie Times
www.forterietimes.com
Saturday, February 25, 2012

The Man in Black

Local Johnny Cash tribute artist to appear in film

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Historians want plaque

Three residents trying to honour crew of light vessel

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- Familiar face at Library retiring

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A flag for service

SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Last Friday, members of the Fort Erie Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs raised a flag at Town Hall for a week dedicated to the local service clubs and everything they do for the community. On Tuesday of this week, the clubs celebrated 70 years of service with an event at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 71. Raising the flag are Paul Sherwood, left, Mary Meagher, Mike George, Larry Graber, Debbie Woehl, Rick Shular, mayor Doug Martin, Kelly Kendrick and Steve Sherwood.

Track in jeopardy

Officials worried that province may no longer support horse racing

Kris Dubé
The Times

A potential recommendation made by the minister of finance on how the province can improve its $16 billion deficit has people involved with the horse-racing industry very concerned.

Last week, minister Dwight Duncan said one measure that could be taken is eliminating the $345 million "subsidy" received by tracks across the province, generated by slot revenues.

His comments followed the Drummond Report, which contained 362 recommendations the province could follow to clean up its deficit.

This has several people involved with the Fort Erie Racetrack, more than concerned.

One of those individuals is Jim Thibert, chief executive officer of the Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium (FELRC).

See Page 2

Karl Hammond
Managing Funeral Director

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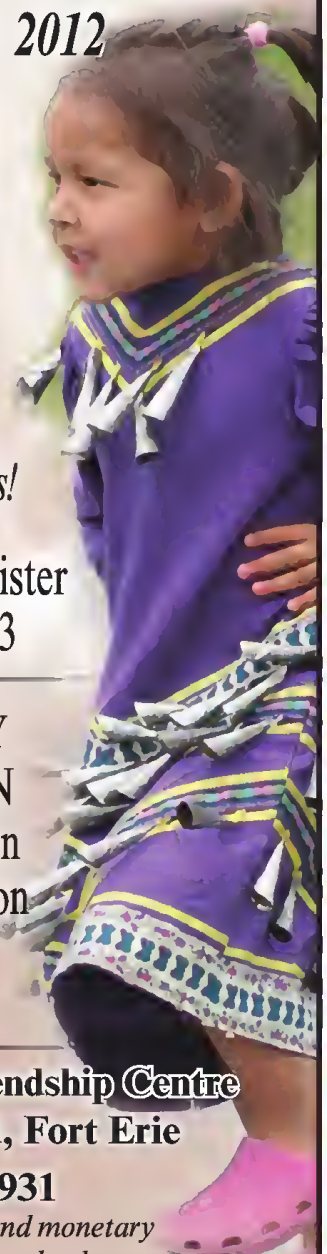

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Racing season for 2012 still on track to start in May

76 race dates, starting in May, still on the schedule

From Page I

He took this role two years ago, when the track owners Nordic Gaming, agreed to lease the 115-year-old facility to the non-profit group to undertake the day-to-day operations for three years.

An agreement was struck with the provincial government and $5.6 million per season from 2010 to 2012 was to be handed down to keep the track running.

The Town of Fort Erie will also have pitched in $1.5 million for those three years and this season is the final of the three of contributing $500,000.

"The timing and the manner that this announcement went out, had no concerns for the fact that we have to run this year," said Thibert.

Many of the horsemen who the FELRC would be counting on to participate in the 2012 season head to southern parts of the U.S. to keep an income flowing during the winter months. If they hear there is trouble once again at the Fort Erie Racetrack, he worries they might decide to stay at tracks in places like Florida and Virginia, for the whole year.

"If they feel threatened, they just may choose not to come to Fort Erie," said Thibert.

The FELRC has applied for 76 race dates and plans for the season to come out of the gate on May 7.

Although it is difficult to determine at this time, Thibert said if horse owners and trainers decide to stay away from the local border oval this year, it will have a severe impact on purse amounts and the overall finances for the operation.

> **"We've been performing very well for the last two years and we want to continue that this year."**
>
> *— Jim Thibert*

A few weeks before the season begins, a comfortable amount of horses getting ready for the 2012 meet would be in the range of about 600.

"If we're looking at only 150 horses, we're going to have problems."

What also frustrates Thibert, is the success he says the track has seen over the last two years under the model of a non-profit organization.

"We've been performing very well for the last two years and we want to continue that this year," he said.

If action were to be taken on the minister's recommendation, mayor Doug Martin said the impact on Fort Erie would be "dramatic."

The Fort Erie Racetrack is the town's largest employer, with more than 450 people on the payroll... which is in obvious concern that Martin and many others are not taking lightly.

Also, the slots facility that is attached to the racetrack generates considerable funding for the Town's budget, bringing in more than $30 million since 1999.

The Town gets about five per cent of the revenue, while the track and the horsemen split 20 per cent.

"It's the province that makes 75 per cent of the revenue," said Martin.

When the slots facility was added about 13 years ago, part of the agreement was that horse-racing and the slots had to co-exist.

If one becomes history... so will the other, Martin said.

"We'll try to meet with the powers that be, to make sure they hear our side," said Martin.

"We obviously want to know what the long-term implications are going to be."

Rectifying financial problems at the Fort Erie Racetrack is something Niagara Falls member of provincial parliament Kim Craitor is familiar with.

"I'm staying positive that we can do it again," said Craitor, who hopes to be able to bring good news to employees of the track and at the slots.

He is highly supportive of the FELRC and its efforts and hopes a five-year business plan that is being worked on for the future will be accepted and eventually successful.

"I just believe in the track and I believe it has a future," he said.

Craitor will meet with the minister of finance next week and says he will explain how the Fort Erie Racetrack is unique, compared to other similar facilities in the province.

It is operated as a non-profit organization and at the same time, significant funding from the municipality it exists in has been provided.

"You don't see that anywhere else," he said.

Get dressed up for Adult Literacy Council's bi-annual gala

Kris Dubé
The Times

Local residents have a few weeks to get their tuxedos and fancy gowns dry cleaned, in time for the Adult Literacy Council (ALC)'s bi-annual fundraising event.

On Apr. 14 at the Leisureplex banquet hall, the 'Black White and Read' gala will be held and event chair Stephen Passero says it is going to be an exciting yet distinguished evening, as guests will be feel like they are attending a big city movie premiere, since the theme of the night will be 'Rolling out the Read Carpet.'

The event has been held every two years since 2000 and has always been a formal evening with gowns, suits, coat tails, elaborate hairstyles and much more, which Passero says is part of the attraction for those who attend.

"It's a much anticipated event and it gives people the opportunity to dress to the nines," he said.

With this year's planned atmosphere, he says people will have a great time as usual.

"We're treating our guests to a movie-star experience," said Passero.

The evening starts with a wine reception where guests can sample products from a variety of Niagara-based wineries, followed by a five-course dinner, presentations and dancing that will be accompanied with live music performances.

This week, invitations were sent out to attendees from previous years and Passero expects that will be a good way to get the ball rolling and fill some of the 350 seats.

"We always get a positive response from people across the region," said Passero.

The evening also includes live and silent auctions, which usually bring in a large portion of the money raised throughout the entire event, says Passero, who will also be the evening's master of ceremonies.

"That's usually the highlight of the evening."

The ALC is a dedicated volunteer-driven registered charity that promotes literacy and actively empowers adult learning partnerships for personal enrichment in The Greater Fort Erie Community.

"The Life skills that you and I take for granted - writing cheques, filling out applications, studying for a driver's test, reading to children, following recipes can be major obstacles for adults who cannot read. There is a place people can turn for assistance in improving their literacy skills, which is the ALC of Greater Fort Erie," said Passero.

"The gala is the ALC's primary fundraiser and I encourage everyone to attend so that we can continue the delivery of our literacy programs for the benefit of our community."

Tickets for the gala are $90 and reservations can be made by contacting Passero at (905) 871-9868. He can also be reached at spassero@forterie.on.ca

Communities in Bloom wants input

Kris Dubé
The Times

Is there a specific part of Greater Fort Erie that you think visitors from out of town need to see?

If something does come to mind, then contacting the Communities-in-Bloom committee should be your next step.

Earlier this month, council approved $13,000 in spending for the committee to compete in the national competition, the first time since 2009 when Fort Erie placed second, only two points behind LeDuc, Alta.

This summer, national judges will once again visit Greater Fort Erie and have a look around, calculating points for the competition that are based on certain criteria such floral areas, environmental awareness, landscaping, tree and urban forest management, natural and cultural conservation and tidiness.

The committee that prepares for the upcoming contest has always had the power to choose the route that the judges will venture on, but this time they want to do things a little bit differently.

"We thought it would be great to let the community pick what the judges see," said Bob Steckley, who is council's representative on the committee and has been since he was elected in 2006.

He feels allowing local residents in Fort Erie, Ridgeway, Crystal Beach and Stevensville to provide input on what areas should be visited, will show how passionate and full of pride the community can be.

"I think that will give us some extra points," he said.

See Page 15

Pancakes for everyone

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Our Lady of Victory students Tyler Barker, left, Anthony Hernandez, Alexandra Hall, Iris Li, Abby Foster, snack program co-ordinator Lisa Barker and educational assistant Lisa Rombough making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday.

Town to 'download' responsibility of roads from Region

Three roadways the first to be transferred

Kris Dubé
The Times

Three regional roads in the community will soon be the responsibility of the Town of Fort Erie.

At Tuesday's council-in-committee meeting, local politicians voted in favour of a recommendation through staff, made by the region, to "download" portions of Point Abino, Michener and Gorham Roads into the hands of the municipality.

The Niagara Region completed its Transportation Services Sustainability Review in 2009 and one of the objectives of the study was to determine appropriate jurisdictional responsibility for roads within the region.

There were three candidates up for a transfer in Greater Fort Erie and the report was met with some reluctance by councillors, mostly by the portion of the report that listed a number of potential roadways that could be downloaded in the future.

Ward 3 Coun. Bob Steckley's attention was caught by the entire length of Dominion Road being on the list, which totals 11.5 kilometres.

In response to a question Steckley raised about the tax impact of the transfers, interim chief administrative officer Ron Tripp said there would be no net cost to residents for the changes.

Steckley had trouble supporting a recommendation that would result in the municipality having to pay for maintenance to the road during winter months, while less money flows to the Town from taxpayers because of the change.

"It's not just running a snow plow down it," he said.

"This is a win for the Region, not a win for the Town."

Ward 1 Coun. Stephen Passero agreed with Steckley, saying that the Town would be losing out if long stretches of roads like Dominion were to be handed over.

"We're not the ones getting money back to provide a service," said Passero.

Ward 4 Coun. John Hill also noted that subdivision projects are set to be erected near and along Dominion Road very soon, which will add to the already poor condition it is in.

"That's only going to put more stress on that road, which is not in good repair," said Hill.

"I think that's a big red flag for us," he added.

Hill also suggested that the Town should petition the Region to improve Dominion Road, before it being downloaded is considered.

Tripp explained that staff isn't in support of these potential future recommendations, along with the ministry of transportation.

> **"We're looking at these case by case.."**
>
> *— Interim chief administrative officer Ron Tripp*

"The Region isn't pushing for the change of jurisdiction on Dominion Road at this point," said Tripp.

He also said that each road, other than the three up for discussion at the meeting, will be considered individually.

"We're looking at these case by case," said Tripp.

After about 25 minutes of discussion, council voted in favour of the report and downloading portions of Point Abino, Michener and Gorham Roads to the municipality.

Part of the recommendation from the region, states that sufficient funds ($1,443,595) should be allocated to the Town to reconstruct Point Abino Road, from Hwy. 3 to Michener Road.

Central Avenue being transferred to the Town is also one of the future proposed jurisdictional changes, but staff is not prepared to look into that until replacement of the Central Avenue Bridge is completed.

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'Man in Black' taking on a new role

Kris Dubé
The Times

The 'man in black' has made his way to the silver screen.

Local resident Jim Yorfido has been a musician for most of his life and one of his most recent projects has been portraying Johnny Cash on stage, as part of the Sun Records Story, an international touring show that chronicles the Memphis-based record label that launched the career of many legendary performers such as Cash, Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison and others.

This has kept him busy for the last five years, playing all over Canada and parts of the U.S., but he now has a new effort to focus on.

Yorfido will play a role in a film to be shot in Niagara Falls, called the Resurrection of a Guitar Hero.

His role is inspired by Johnny Cash but the famous performer's name is not used and instead, his character is referred to simply as 'the man in black.'

A friend told Yorfido about a casting call for the role and he decided to see what it was all about.

He arrived at an audition and producers of the film told him they were looking for what he referred to as a "third-rate" Johnny Cash.

Since he has been mirroring the stage presence, voice and style of Cash for about seven years.... he said that wouldn't be a problem.

"I'm at least second rate," he laughed.

This was back in September of last year when he first showcased himself for the role and a little while later was invited back to read dialogue for the film.

Shortly after that, be learned the role was his and now he looks forward to contributing his voice and look to the project, which he expects will be very exciting, working with people from the movie industry who have what he said is a great vision.

"You can tell the people behind this are real pros," he said.

Acting is something Yorfido does have experience with, as there are many speaking parts in the shows he plays as Johnny Cash, along his wife Pam who plays the role of June Carter with him and has also been a tribute artist that celebrates the work of country singer Tammy Wynette.

He also played with a Niagara-based children's group called the Smudge Fundaes for almost a decade before they called it quits.

"I've done a lot of stage acting, but never anything for movies," he said.

Playing Cash, Yorfido says it doesn't take much acting because the legendary singer was never one for gimmicks. Therefore, pinpointing his behaviour is basically impossible and the real focus is making sure the songs sound as similar as possible to Cash's recordings.

"He never did the same thing twice... I'm myself up there, the people love it and it works," he said.

Aside from the role in the film, Yorfido is also getting ready for several dates in Ontario.

He also performs with New Kid in Town, an Eagles tribute act.

Also, he and his wife Pam are also getting prepared for 'Johnny Cash and the Queens of Country.' Yorfido will play the familiar role of the man in black while Pam will sing songs originally performed by Tammy Wynette and Loretta Lynn. They will also be joined by Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame inductee Marie Bottrell, who will perform as Patsy Cline and Dolly Parton.

The Yorfidos are also planning a benefit for the local SPCA, which will take place this summer.

'Resurrection of a Guitar Hero' is described as a modern day fairy tale about an up-and-coming guitarist who makes a bad deal with a witch to become a superstar. Now it's up to him to thwart her plans and find all the pieces of an enchanted guitar before she does. The film is being created by independent filmmakers, the Moon Brothers.

Pam and Jim Yorfido have been performing together for years. Last week, Jim was chosen to portray 'the man in black' in a film that will be shot in Niagara Falls.

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opinion page

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TIM DUNDAS, Publisher 905–357–2440 ext. 304
tdundas@niagaracommunitynewspapers.com

KRIS DUBÉ, Editor 905–871–3100 ext. 207
editorial@forterietimes.com

MYRA ROBERTSON, Sales Manager 905–871–3100 ext. 202
mrobertson@forterietimes.com

our editorial

Racetrack is Fort Erie's local jewel

How many times do we have to worry about the Fort Erie Racetrack?

What is the most frustrating part about having to regularly ask this question, is that over the last two years the 115-year-old border oval appeared to be operating efficiently and hopefully will continue to this season.

This could change though, after the minister of finance sent a scare through the industry province-wide when he suggested $345 million of funding from slots facilities, could be used more appropriately for health care.

That's fine and dandy, as we know health care is a passionate issue across the province.

But the possibility of 60,000 jobs being thrown out is just as serious.

The Fort Erie Racetrack is a local jewel and has been for over 100 years.

It's how people from out of town identify our community and if it becomes a part of our history and not our future... we will be viewed as a town that once had a lot and eventually was left with nothing.

No decision has been made, so we don't want to instill any fear with people who depend on the track... but now is the time to let the province know how you feel about it possibly severing all funds to the horse racing industry.

It would be a real tragedy.

-Kris Dubé

Do You Remember?

We received no phone calls about last week's dancer, so that photo will go back into the 'unidentified persons' binder here at the Museum.

However, we did get a correction about the 50th wedding anniversary photo. This happy event was held at St. Michael's Church and Hall and not Our Lady of Victory as previously mentioned. We always appreciate being able to set the record straight.

This week's photo shows a well decorated girl guide receiving another honour.

If you know her or the guide leader in the photo, please call the Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail us at museum@forterie.on.ca.

Leaded gas use a thing of the past and won't be a part of proposed speedway

Dear Editor,

I find it strangely ironic that Mr. Trench chose to try and use the Environment Canada's Gasoline Regulations website to back up his information on use of leaded gas in NASCAR type racing as this is one of the sources that I used to research my information. If you read the complete article to the bottom you will find it is his information that is misleading not mine. Under the sub heading Racing Industry in Canada – it states and I quote "leaded racing fuel use is dictated by the rules of the race association sponsoring the event and is required by the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) and the International Hot Rod Association (IHRA). Many other large racing associations, such as Indy, Formula One and NASCAR, do not use leaded gasoline."

A little further down under the sub-title "Actions in Other Jurisdictions" states "the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been working with the racing industry to effect change through voluntary means, and there has been voluntary transition to unleaded racing fuels by some U.S. sanctioning bodies.

The National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) fully converted to unleaded from leaded gasoline at the beginning of the 2007 racing season.

The U.S. EPA, which worked with NASCAR on their conversion, has indicated that "any changes they make are expected to have a significant effect throughout the industry." The Indy Racing League's Indy Pro Series also converted from leaded gasoline to non-leaded alternatives (unleaded gasoline and ethanol) over the 2006 and 2007 seasons. Canadian NASCAR races (formerly CASCAR) do not use leaded gasoline."

There are approximately 165 racing facilities operating in Canada that host stock car, dragsters, motorcycles and other vehicles (boats, personal water craft, snowmobiles and go-karts).

These fall under the current exemptions for leaded fuel. This is not the NASCAR type racing that the proposed new track would be featuring.

We already have two tracks in the area that are involved in this type of racing.

I do not feel I owe any reader an apology for my original statement with regard to my previous letter. My information came directly from many newspaper articles and websites, including Environment Canada's.

I will however admit to a minor typo in that letter. In the fourth paragraph I refered to racecars not using leaded fuel since 2008. That statement should have said NASCAR type race cars have not used leaded fuel since 2008.

For that minor error I will apologize to readers.

Lesley North
Fort Erie

opinion page

Reader passionate about horse–racing being a part of his life

An open letter to premier Dalton McGuinty

My name is Pete Vincent, I live in Ridgeway and I have been involved (part time) in thoroughbred racing (and to a lesser degree breeding) for 35 years.

It is not news that all across North America horse racing is and has been struggling for quite a number of years.

Why is it now that with some positive events taking place over the last couple of years are your financial gurus suggesting to pull the revenue sharing rug out from our underestimated industry?

Fort Erie Racetrack has seemingly been on its deathbed since Woodbine walked away from us. Now finally, with our Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation , Town of Fort Erie and the HBPA there is a plan in place to operate and sustain this long standing historic Ontario jewel.

Our MPP Kim Craitor has been very supportive of Fort Erie Racetrack's plight and has been instrumental in assisting the new non profit racetrack management group. Mr. Craitor was good enough to pop into and address a quickly organized horseman's meeting of 300 to 400 persons last Saturday at the racetrack (not one heckler by the way).

If you look at the development of the number and quality of thoroughbred sires alone that have set up shop here in Ontario the last two years it is quite impressive. Adena Springs (Frank Stronach), and others, have been very aggressive in bringing Kentucky / Florida quality type sires here to Ontario to stand.

Why?

Because our existing Ontario sires program is second to none and will improve. It's taken decades for Ontario to get on the North American racing map. Now that we are gaining momentum and our revenue sharing programs are the envy of other governing and racing jurisdictions, the plug is suggested to be pulled.

Please Mr. McGuinty, do not underestimate the intrinsic value of the total racing industry and the huge financial spin -offs at stake.

I understand budget deficits need to be addressed. I mentioned to Mr. Craitor at our horseman's meeting that health care is a major concern and we in Fort Erie have been front and center about our diminished local health services.

Why can't we look for positive ways to support our fiscal shortcomings?

Our doctors are costing our health programs too much!

Why can't we institute a $10 user fee to go and see a physician or specialist? There is too much abuse in the health system of going to see the doctor. This would eliminate many unnecessary visits and also be a revenue producer (not to mention quicker attention to those in dire need). Full day Kindergarten for four year olds? Really, is this not just organized day care?

Again, if this is fully implemented, why not a require a nominal user fee for kids of this young age?

I'm certain you will look at the big picture Mr. McGuinty before any rash, monumental decisions are made. I don't need the horse racing industry (as thousands do), but I am passionate about it being a part of my life.

Peter Vincent
Ridgeway

The TIMES Asks

Is Fort Erie's race track an important part of the community?

Joanna Lattimer

"Absolutely. I once heard there were more horses per capita in Fort Erie than anywhere in Ontario."

Karen Marion

"Yes. The race track brings jobs for the unemployed and it brings visitors to the area."

Rob Ware

"Absolutely, it brings in jobs and if it wasn't here, many people would be out of work."

Stan Conron

"Yes it is important. The race track brings in a lot of money for the town."

What do you think?

E–mail: editorial@forterietimes.com or call 905–871–3100, ext. 207

Reader says speedway critics 'just don't get it'

Dear Editor,

In my opinion, some people just don't get it.

Not everyone was fortunate to start a career early in life and stay there until retirement.

I have worked at a plant for 25 years only to have the doors closed because of corporate greed.

Before we get on our high horse about second careers, I have been there done that and it`s still difficult to find work.

What about the younger generation?

Anything that will bring jobs into the community should be welcomed with open arms. Whether it be your grandchildren or neighbours, someone will depend on these. Jobs are jobs no matter how you look at it.

I would love to retire to a quiet area and enjoy the fresh air as well, but we have to look at the big picture here.

To quote Mr. Trench from the Feb. 18 issue of the Times, in regards to leaded fuel" it creates a proven and unnecessary hazard for children in particular."

There are health risks all around us.

If we are going to spread fear due to health issues then maybe we should start with cell phones, smoking, or living near hydro wires.

I could go on and on.

We have worked in steel plants, chemical plants, paper mills and many other diverse environments. Lets not lose sight of the future, many people depend on it.

Oh and by the way, I live close to the proposed site as well.

David Cernusca
Fort Erie

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Fire Marshal and Niagara fire chiefs partner to combat arson

Arson fires are an issue in every community, but the rate of arson in the Niagara Region is much higher than in any other part of Ontario, contributing to significant costs in damage and sometimes injury to residents.

To deal with the high rate of arson in the area, the Niagara Regional Police, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), and the Niagara Region Chiefs Association (NRFCA) have partnered together to form the Memorandum of Understanding, an arson task force.

The agreement was signed this Tuesday at Town Hall.

The goal of the task force is to reduce the number of arsons in the Niagara region and to increase the number of convictions in investigations.

In 2003, the NRFCA formed a sub-committee to combat arson, but the new agreement signed on Tuesday between the three parties takes arson investigation one step further.

The agreement clarifies the roles and responsibilities when all three groups are involved in fire and explosion investigations.

The agreement states municipal fire departments will make sure vacant buildings are secured from further fires and the agreement also promotes the identification and preservation of evidence found in a criminal fire scene for documentation.

A database will also be created by the NRP to track fires to identify patterns of serial arson, potential crime and safety concerns. The information will be shared with the OFM and the NRFCA during investigations.

The NRP currently keeps track of the number of arson fires in Niagara, but the records include everything from minor brush fires to major house fires.

Between August 2009 and August 2010, the OFM investigated about 600 incidents and investigators concluded arson was the cause of 43 per cent of these incidents.

Criminal charges were laid in 82 cases and public fire safety issues were identified in 66 cases.

Of 111 arson fires reported, only 23 per cent of those investigations were solved and half of those cases lead to charges in 2011.

From 2006 to 2010, that number was 18 per cent lower.

Ontario Fire Marshal Ted Wieclawek congratulated everyone behind the agreement, saying it will bring nothing but positive results.

"The office of the fire marshal is proud to be a part of this arson prevention partnership agreement in the Niagara region," he said.

"This partnership will enhance public safety by targeting those who intentionally put the public and emergency responders at risk," he added.

Niagara Regional Police deputy chief Joe Matthews agreed that this agreement will be helpful.

"The Niagara Regional Police Service is proud to partner with aea fire departments and the office of the fire marshal. This partnership will assist in communication between partners and the criminal prosecution of offenders," said deputy chief Matthews.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

(1) LOOKING FOR SUMMER WORK?

The Corporation is now accepting applications for **summer student employment opportunities** in parks/cemeteries; facilities; roads; horticulture; museums and engineering. Schedules may include Saturday and Sunday. Some positions require a valid, Class G drivers' license. Further details are available at www.town.forterie.ca. Go to "Town Hall", scroll down and click on "Employment Opportunities".

Returning students MUST apply. Application forms are available on-line and at Town Hall. The deadline for receiving applications is **5:00 p.m. FRIDAY MARCH 23, 2012.**

(2) WATER & WASTEWATER SERVICES

2011 Annual Water Quality Summary Report

Please be advised the Town of Fort Erie's 2011 Annual Water Quality Summary Report has been completed and approved by Council. The report can be viewed on the Town of Fort Erie website located at www.forterie.on.ca

Grant Boutin, Manager
Water/Wastewater Services

**(3) ** TAX NOTICE **

TOWN OF FORT ERIE 2012 INTERIM TAXES
FOR ALL PROPERTY CLASSES
FIRST INSTALLMENT DUE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012

For further information regarding payment of taxes,
please refer to the back of your tax bill.
2012 interim tax bills were mailed on February 6, 2012
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday
Monthly payment plans by pre-authorized bank withdrawal are available for accounts with past due taxes and current year taxes. For information contact:
Town of Fort Erie at (905) 871-1600

Gillian Corney
Manager of Revenue & Collections

1812 2012 NIAGARA 1812 Fort Erie

Participate In The Grande Parade With A Float Or Display

The Fort Erie 1B12 Bicentennial Committee is inviting schools, service clubs, businesses and other groups to participate in the Granda Parade to ba held on Juna 23, 2012. Applicants are encouragad to provida a float or display that best represents your organization and supports the various listed themes of the War of 1B12 Bicentennial.

- The Community in 1812
- 200 Years of Peace
- Great Canadian Historical Figures circa 1812
- First Nation Allies

More information and the application to enter a float in the Parade is available at www.FortErie1B12.ca

The Bicentennial Committee will assist with providing historical information and is able to offer limited financial aid where requested. For further information please contact Michael Blair - Float & Display Coordinator at 289-303-7647 after 3pm or mikeblair159@gmail.com

Historians want to honour crew of light vessel that perished in Crystal Beach

Six U.S. Mariners were aboard Light Vessel 82 when it sunk over 100 years ago

A Local Fundraising group is looking for funding for a plaque for Light Vessel 82 at Waterfront Park in Crystal Beach.

Three historians from the Crystal Beach and Ridgeway area are trying to raise $3,000 for a plaque dedicated to the memory of six U.S. Coast Guard Mariners that lost their lives on November 10 1913 off of Lake Erie.

The Light Vessel 82 was a ship fitted with lights, fog horns and bells and stationed off of Point Abino, just west of Crystal Beach. Point Abino juts out into the Lake and its rocky jagged shoals had sunk many a ship on their way to one of the busiest Ports in the World, according to historians Paul Kassay, Rick Doan and John Robbins.

Between November 7 and 12, 1913 a "white hurricane" descended on the Great Lakes.

With snow, winds of 80 miles per hour and 35 foot high waves, LV-82 tried to stay on guard, so that no ships would end up on these rocky shallows. However, on November 10, the 95ft long, whale back design, steel ship, was pulled under with all six crew members aboard. It took until that Spring to find the ship almost two miles east of its station and no bodies were recovered. A year after the sinking, one body was found "in remarkable condition" in the Niagara River, according to the trio behind the effort to pay tribute to the U.S mariners.

No others were ever found.

It was almost two years before the ship was brought up, taken to Buffalo, then sent to Detroit, where it was refitted and used until 1936.

Two other lightships guarded these shoals until 1917, when the Point Abino Lighthouse was finally built and is still located there although decommissioned.

The local historians, want to have a plaque installed at Waterfront Park in Crystal Beach, close to where the ship went down and to Memorialize the US Coastguardsman that lost their lives.

Rick and Paul already have a plaque at Waterfront Park, commemorating The SS Canadiana with a permanent display of her propeller, capstan and bollard. They are hoping the U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards could participate in a six gun salute during the dedication and Rick Doan says "that most people have never heard of this tragedy and hopes that the plaque would be a lasting tribute to those sailors that perished that fateful night."

> **"This is a perfect year to do it."**
>
> —*Paul Kassay*

Kassay said that this initiative is a symbol of the ongoing friendship between Canada and the U.S and with the War of 1812 bicentennial celebrations coming in June, it seemed appropriate to get things going.

"This is a perfect year to do it," said Kassay.

Donations can be made by contacting Doan at 905 894 1342 or through email at rdoan5@cogeco.ca. Kassay can be reached at 905 894 0842.

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Local historians Paul Kassay and Rick Doan stand near a large boulder they hope to place a plaque on, to pay tribute to the Light Vessel 82. They estimate the cost of the plaque would be around $3,000.

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Hillebrand Winery Restaurant 905-468-7123
LIV at White Oaks 905-688-2550
Peller Estates 905-468-4678
Ravine Vineyard 905-262-8463
Restaurant Oban Inn 905-468-2165
Riverbend Inn 905-468-8866
Stone Road Grille 905-468-3474
Terrair La Cachette 905-468-1222
The Epicurean 905-468-3408
Tiara at Queens Landing 905-468-2195
Zees Grill at Shaw Club 905-468-5715

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Brain Empowering Team

SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Members of the Brain Empowering Team meet at Charlene Heckman's home on Murray Street every Thursday. The group's goal is to provide more education about neurological impairments and other health issues through books, speakers and discussion. Read the whole story on page 14.

Date set for speedway OMB hearing

In January, the Canadian Motor Speedway Ontario Municipal Board hearing was stalled when legal parties involved in the process were unable to arrive at a date for the hearing to commence.

On Tuesday, a telephone conference was held with representatives from the Town of Fort Erie, the speedway, the Niagara Region and the parties opposed to the project, the Citizens Coalition of Greater Fort Erie and the Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society, were able to decide on a date.

The hearing will kick into high gear on June 18 and is expected to last about two weeks.

If necessary, the hearing will reconvene in November for another two weeks, if the board is unable to render a decision by June 29.

check this out

fepl Fort Erie Public Library

Free Income Tax Clinics
For people with lower incomes, clinics will be held in the month of March, hosted by the FEPL and community volunteers trained by Canada Revenue.
Clinics will be held at both Crystal Ridge and Centennial branches
For more information contact either branch at (905) 871-2546 ext. 305 or (905) 894 1281.

Leap into Music
a seminar with young area musicians including violin and piano students.
Wed. Feb. 29, 7 p.m.
Centennial branch
light refreshments

No one should ever be **pressured, forced or tricked** into giving money — even to loved ones. If someone you trust is taking advantage of you, help is out there. **Learn the signs of financial abuse to protect yourself and the people you love.**

ELDER ABUSE IT'S TIME TO FACE THE REALITY

To find out more from the Government of Canada about preventing elder abuse, visit **www.seniors.gc.ca** or call **1 800 O-Canada** (1-800-622-6232)
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2) Straight, curly, dark or blonde, wavy or wispy, make the most of what you've got. Hair always looks it's best when it is in fabulous condition and has a fantastic cut.
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- you continually go over your spending limit or you use your credit cards as a necessity rather than a convenience;
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- you pay only interest or service charges monthly and do not reduce your total debt over many months;
- creditors threaten you for payment, threaten to sue or repossess your car, furniture or television, or hire a collection agency to recover the money for them;
- utility companies cut off service because your bills have gone unpaid;
- LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT (biggest problem today)

The world does not come to an end over bankruptcy. (Walt Disney went bankrupt four times before finding success). Our firm offers free initial consultations.

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ASK THE EXPERT

Helen McCreadie

Q: Why is it important to create a Human Resources (HR) Policies and Procedures Manual?

A: Whether your business is small or large, having a HR Policies and Procedures Manual sets out the expectations of your organization. It provides more information about your business and its values. These guidelines provide a sense of standardization and are intended to safeguard both the employee and employer.

These policies should be written in a language that is clear and understandable; outline the rights and obligations of both the employer and employee; work in conjunction with and in addition to Employment Standards; and demonstrate respect for the workplace. Policies can help to minimize mismanagement thus avoiding costly legal expenses. There are also legal requirements to develop and implement certain policies such as workplace violence and harassment, accessibility, etc. It is recommended that when designing your policy you seek the appropriate professional assistance.

For more information contact:

BSL
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Ask a Restaurateur

Q: "I'm opening my first restaurant soon and was wondering if background music is an important element to look into and if so, what type of music would you suggest"?

A: First of all, congratulations on your new venture!

Background music sets a mood and helps create a more attractive atmosphere, so choosing the right style of music is very important in creating that specific atmosphere you are looking for.

The customer demographic you all looking to attract must coincide with the style of music that is preferred by your prospective clientele.

For instance, if you are looking to attract a younger customer base, choose up-tempo "pop music". If you are looking to attract a more adult customer base, play a music genre that is more appealing to that particular demographic.

For example, in our restaurant we play Smooth Jazz music to create a relaxing atmosphere which enhances the overall aspect of our more mature customer's dining experience. People should be able to converse easily and feel relaxed and at ease with your chosen genre so choosing the right music will play an important role in creating the right atmosphere and your customers will appreciate it as they do in our establishment.

Good luck again,

Bon Appetite — Your host, Peter Koutroulakis

Peter Koutroulakis
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Ask the Interior Decorator

Q: WHY SHOULD I PAY SOMEONE TO STAGE MY HOUSE?

A: You watch HGTV and read all the decor magazines. You feel confident you can stage yourself. After all, how hard can clearing off counters and removing furniture really be? Actually, that is easy. But that is just the start. Sure, you must have clean counters and definitely remove some furniture if you have too much. It's a fine line though. Remove too much and your place looks cold and sterile. Like no one lives there. Don't remove enough and it looks cramped and untidy. While you don't want your house to look too lived in, you do want potential buyers to think they can! The idea is to create a warm inviting atmosphere without cluttering it up. Start with a well planned furniture layout and highlight with carefully chosen accessories. Proper lighting is important - it can easily change the ambience of a room. Dimmers are a great idea. There are many things that can be done to make your house shine like the jewel it is! If you have an eye and can do this yourself, great!... but if you need some help or are just too busy doing what you do best - call me. I'd be happy to give you a helping hand.

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Ask a Funeral Director

Q: We have been getting information about "final expense insurance". How does this relate to a Prepaid Funeral.

A: In many cases these are offered by insurance companies and have little or no association with a funeral home and may not lock in funeral costs. Funeral Homes have similar products that will most often offer more options and security to individuals who desire to have their funeral services prepaid. I am always available to answer your specific questions about prepaying or prearranging funeral services.

Darren Flagg
Funeral Director

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How do I protect my PC?

Not an easy article, but here goes: by Ed Smith

- Use your Windows Update to keep your PC current!
- There are **great** free *and* paid AntiVirus programs.

Alternatively, there are **bad** free *and* paid AV programs. Read reviews, talk to friends, and get expert help.

- Try to limit downloading movies, software, and music. They are constant targets for viruses!

:-)

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High school students learn skilled trades through on-site experience

Sarah Ferguson
The Times

About 19 students from 10 different high schools across the region are building more than just homes —they are developing skills that will last them a lifetime.

For 18 weeks, which is the equivalent of one semester, District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) students in Grades 11 and 12, from Grimsby to Fort Erie, are working to build a brand new home from scratch in Black Creek.

The students work every day from 8 to 3 p.m. as part of the Specialist High Skills Major Program (SHSM), says Ken Willms, a teacher who has been overseeing students constructing homes since 2004.

The teacher says the program began as an initiative through the DSBN and since it began, 19 homes have been constructed by students in the Niagara region.

The SHSM program lets students focus on a career path that interests them and teaches them how to develop their skills.

When students graduate from high school, they will receive a red seal on their diplomas to indicate the skills they have learned.

There are many different majors ranging from culinary and automotive.

Willms says he is a trained carpenter and other professionals such as plumbers and electricians come in and work with the students as they are learning.

Students also earn certifications such as first aid and CPR.

When students graduate they also can use their hours in the SHSM toward the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program which gives youth an opportunity to become registered apprentices and works toward becoming certified in skilled trades like construction, Willms says.

Although someone might be concerned about buying a home built by students, Willms assures anyone who asks that the finished homes must follow the Ontario Building Code and they undergo the same inspections and follow the same regulations as any other house.

"Part of the Niagara Home Builders Association so we have all of the up-to-date information and training with the industry to pass on to our students."

Willms adds there is no difference between a home built by students in the SHSM program than a house built by professionals.

"The only difference is students might use a few more materials because they are still learning."

Willms says the SHSM program is open to any student with the passion and willingness to learn a skilled trade.

No experience is needed.

"The best way for students to learn about it is to talk with their guidance counsellor."

Local developer Park Lane Homes, offered the opportunity for the work to be done and the cost that would have been borne to pay for a contractor to do this work, will be donated to charity.

Fort Erie Secondary student Rusty Crosby is part of the Specialist Major High Schools program and he is helping to construct a home in Black Creek. There are currently 19 students in the program from high schools across the Niagara region.

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Open house to bid farewell to library's children services co–ordinator

Sarah Ferguson
The Times

To the children who visit the Fort Erie Library on a daily basis, she is just known as Miss Hazel.

But, she is so much more.

When she retires as Children's Services Co-ordinator next week, Hazel Reinhart will be missed by everyone who knows her, says Amy Roebuck, community services co-ordinator.

Reinhart has been working at the library since 1986 and she has been responsible for the usual Library children's programming, such as Story Hour and Tales for Twos. But, Reinhart was also the driving force behind new initiatives such as the Family Literacy Event which is held every May, the Chocolate Club and the Kids Quest Homework Help after school program, says Roebuck.

Reinhart is also known at the the library for creating opportunities for children to have fun while developing their literacy skills.

"The words 'Hey guys, I have an idea,' are the most dangerous words Hazel can say," laughs Roebuck.

She says Reinhart has been responsible for numerous activities for children during March break, crafts and science programs on Saturdays, early learning literacy programs for infants and countless other programs.

She's also famous for taking down all of the 'please no talking' signs in the library .

She did in an effort to encourage children to have fun and laugh while they discovered new and exciting books.

"Children are children and they're noisy. That's fine and that's wonderful," says Reinhart.

Reinhart's efforts will be celebrated during an open house and the public can say goodbye on March 4 at the Centennial Branch.

See Page 15

SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Hazel Reinhart enjoys a book with Our Lady of Victory student Mataya Marr at the the Fort Erie Public Library. Reinhart will be retiring from her role as Children's Services co-ordinator next week.

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Brock University

Support group helps people suffering from variety of health issues

Sarah Ferguson
The Times

Each member of the Brain Empowering Team (BET) has a different story to tell.

But, they all share something in common with each other—each person is dealing with, or knows someone who is battling with health issues.

Whether it's recovering from a stroke, battling heart disease, or struggling with depression, everyone, who deals with any health related issue, is welcome to talk about whatever is on their minds, says Charlene Heckman.

BET began three years ago when Heckman says she realized there was a need for a support group in Fort Erie and she invited a few people to get together to learn about the brain, neurological impairments and other health issues through books, speakers and discussions.

Since it first began, BET has grown into a family of friends who meet every Thursday in Heckman's home on Murray Street.

They share their daily struggles and encourage each other to grow and recover.

"BET has been a great support group. We've been there for each other through thick and thin."

Andrea Menig joined BET when the support group first started. She suffered from a brain aneurysm in 1991 and afterward, Menig realized she couldn't read anymore.

But, after time and a little patience, Menig began to re-learn how to read. With support she found from BET, Menig says she has developed a passion for writing stories, poetry and sermons for her church.

She says the BET has helped her by encouraging her writing.

"Sometimes I use the group to bounce ideas off of them. They give me their opinions and strategies for my writing."

Menig says her family and her friends have been wonderful and very supportive during her long road to recovery.

But, being a part of BET provides an opportunity to talk with people who know "exactly what it feels like," says Menig.

"We are really like a family. Here we are able to share our heartache."

Mark Cross is a newer member of BET who suffers from seizure and he is one of only a few men to join the group.

"There's a lot of estrogen here," Cross jokes.

Since he has joined, Cross says BET has helped him cope with his health issues and given him an opportunity to talk about how many people might not realize what he deals with on a regular basis.

When Cross suffers from a seizure, the right side of his body becomes paralyzed and he suffers from symptoms that stroke patients have.

"Everybody here has been great and truly supportive. People see me and they don't realize there is a problem inside."

Heckman says anyone who needs a safe, informal place to talk is welcome to attend the meeting.

"My living room is not as big as it could be but we'll make room for everyone who needs to talk. We'll stick them in the rafters if we have to."

What Heckman says she hopes most people take away from the group is that they are not alone on the road to recovery. In many cases, people who suffer from strokes and other issues are told they won't be able to recover fully. But, Heckman says that isn't always the case—many members of BET were told they wouldn't be able to walk, or speak or do normal tasks such as driving and they are doing things doctors told them they would never be able to do again.

BET is about people taking their mental well-being into their own hands and supporting each other, says Heckman.

BET meets every Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. The meetings are informal and there is no fund raising or costs involved with joining.

For more information contact Heckman at 905-871-7510.

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390 Lincoln Street, Welland, 905-732-4445
287 West Side Road, Port Colborne, 905-835-7765

Have you HEARD?
by Alaina Hilliar, M.Cl.Sc
Registered by CASLTO
Audiologist
AN APPEAL TO OLDER ADULTS
If you are a senior, chances are good that you suffer from hearing loss. Approximately 80 percent of individuals have some degree of hearing loss by the time they reach 80 years of age; however, there is no standardized test to detect it. As a result, only up to 20 percent of older adults who could derive benefit from wearing a hearing instrument actually wear one. All it takes is a test to evaluate hearing acuity, whether a simple whisper test to the use of sophisticated audio equipment, to begin addressing the problem. Medicare will most likely pay for the exam but not the hearing instrument, although some Medicare supplement plans include an allowance for hearing instruments.
Are you one of those millions of people who do not hear as well as they once did? If so, you are certainly not alone. About three in 10 people over age 60 have hearing loss, and studies have linked untreated hearing loss to emotional, physical, mental, psychological and even economic disadvantages. If you or a loved one suffers from hearing loss, please call HEARAGAIN BALANCE & HEARING CLINICS at 905-871-4242. Our office is located at 660 Garrison Rd., Unit 12. We are open M-F, 9am-5pm. Most major insurance accepted. Please visit our website at www.hearingagainclinics.com
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Open house to be held March 4

From page 13

Although Roebuck wouldn't say what the theme of the open house would be because it's a surprise for Reinhart, she says the afternoon will be filled with balloons, refreshments for both children and adults and lots of fun activities for everyone to enjoy.

Roebuck does have one clue for anyone who tries to guess the theme of the open house.

"Hazel always said she will never leave the library until she figured out how to fit an elephant in the room. We'll see if she manages that."

Reinhart was born in England and her family moved to Port Colborne where she grew up.

She studied english and psychology and eventually settled in Fort Erie when she began working at the library's Centennial branch.

Before working as a co-ordinator for children's programs, Reinhart worked in many different positions.

She worked as a reporter a social worker and she worked in advertising—all of this work experience has helped Reinhart in her career at the library.

"I've used a little bit of everything from my work experience. I do promotions, I write flyers and articles for the library. In hindsight, all of my previous employment experience has done me well."

Although she is retiring from her position at the library, Reinhart says she is far from finished with the working world.

She describes what will happen next as more of a "rewiring."

Reinhart will start a Niagara chapter of Equal Voice—a group of men and women working to promote women in politics.

She will also continue to enjoy painting with water colours.

Reinhart says she also plans to help a new friend open an art gallery in Ridgeway.

When asked what she will miss the most about working at the Fort Erie Library, Reinhart says she will miss working with children the most.

"I have had the best job in the world because I get to work with young people. I got to teach things and I've had the potential to change lives. That is a wonderful job."

Everyone is invited to come to say goodbye to Reinhart and wish her well on March 4 from to 4 p.m. at the Fort Erie Library's Centennial branch.

Meteors hosting Kids' Night at Leisureplex

The Fort Erie Meteors want to show appreciation to its younger generation of fans.

Tonight at 7:15 p.m., the Jr. B hockey team will host its annual Kids' Night at the Leisureplex, with many big and small prizes to be won.

There will be raffles, a puck toss and much more that everyone in attendance can participate in.

A package of raffle tickets can be purchased for $15, which will also contain a few small prizes before any lucky numbers are drawn, says director of hockey operations Tony Passero.

"There are a lot of nice prizes," said Passero.

Children 12 years of age and under will be admitted for free and everyone else will only have to pay five dollars to attend, instead of the usual five dollars.

The game against the Port Colborne Pirates faces off at 7:15 p.m. and it is the final regular season game for the team.

Residents can pick areas for judges' consideration

National judges have six criteria to investigate during visit this summer

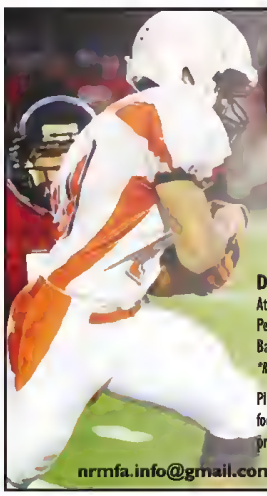
From Page 3

Taking this approach and asking the people of Fort Erie for their say will hopefully provide benefits this time around, since there are many little nooks and sections of the community that may be overlooked without someone else suggesting they become part of the route that will be traveled by the judges.

"There could be something in your neighbourhood that others don't know anything about," said Steckley.

If you would like to suggest a specific part of town to be potentially showcased this summer, contact Steckley at (905) 871-7531.

He can also be reached at bsteckley@forterie.on.ca.



FOOTBALL NIAGARA

Registration Dates

February 11th, 18th & 25th 9am - 1pm

at the Leisureplex, Fort Erie

Divisions

Atom	Born 2002-2004	8-10 yrs. old	*115lbs
Pee Wee	Born 2000-2001	11-12 yrs. old	*145lbs
Bantam	Born 1998-1999	13-14 yrs. old	*Unlimited

*Restricted playing positions for players over this weight.

Players MUST attend to be weighed and fitted for football pants. The player's Birth Certificate must be presented at this time.

nrmfa.info@gmail.com www.footballniagara.com

Pricing

The cost to play is $350, payable via cash or cheque to NRMFA. This consists of a $150 refundable deposit and a fee of $200 for the 2011 season, (family plan available).

Helmets, shoulder pads & jerseys SUPPLIED. All players will take ownership of new pants that come with built-in pads.

GREATER FORT ERIE MINOR BALL

2012 PLAYER REGISTRATION

~REGISTRATION DATES~

Saturday, March 3rd	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Walmart	Saturday, March 24th	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Walmart
Saturday, March 10th	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Walmart	Saturday, March 31st	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Ball shack (Oakes Park - Fort Erie)

NOTE: MARCH 31ST IS FINAL REGISTRATION

Registration Fees:

T-BALL Born 2007-2009 (Ages 3-5) MUST BE 3 BEFORE MAY 22ND	$55.00
ROOKIE BALL Born 2004-2006 (Ages 6-8)	$90.00
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SENIOR GIRLS Born 1993-1998 (Ages 14-19) MUST STILL BE 19 BEFORE MAY 22ND	$100.00
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2 Players = $10.00 Discount

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Community Services

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE
Trinity Lutheran Church,
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Please join us at
2 p.m. on Friday,
March 2, 2012!!
12514296

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12510574

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Notices

Legal Notices A900

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS IN THE ESTATE OF MARGARET ANNA LEVER

All persons having claims against the Estate of MARGARET ANNA LEVER, late of the Town of Fort Ene, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on the 25th day of September, 2010 are notified to send particulars to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of March, 2012, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim the undersigned shall not then have notice.

Dated this 6th day of February, 2012.

Timothy Alan Lever and
Tracie Lemoine Miskolczi, Estate Trustees
by their solicitors
Jones, Jamieson & Redekop
288 Ridge Road
Ridgeway, Ontario
L0S 1N0
Telephone 905-894-0220
Fax 905-894-5356

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

In the estate of Norma Mildred Carr, Pensioner, Deceased,

All persons having claims as creditors against the estate of the above mentioned, late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died at the said Town of Fort Ene, on May 15, 2011, are required to file proof of same with the undersigned on or before Wednesday, March 28, 2012

After that date the Public Guardian and Trustee will proceed to distribute the estate, having regard only to the claims of which she then shall have had notice.

Anyone having knowledge of a Will or next-of-kin of the above mentioned is also requested to contact the undersigned.

DATED at Toronto on February 21, 2012

PUBLIC GUARDIAN AND TRUSTEE,
ESTATE TRUSTEE
595 BAY STREET, SUITE 800
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5G 2M6
File:817442-015

Legal Notices A900

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS IN THE ESTATE OF HUGH JAMES CORCORAN

All persons having claims against the Estate of HUGH JAMES CORCORAN late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on the 17th day of September, 2011 are notified to send particulars to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of March 2012, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim the undersigned shall not then have notice.

Dated this 10th day of February, 2012

Susan Corcoran and Wayne H. Redekop
Estate Trustees, by their solicitors
Jones, Jamieson & Redekop
288 Ridge Road
Ridgeway, Ontario
L0S 1N0
Telephone 905-894-0220
Fax 905-894-5356

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS IN THE ESTATE OF EARL FREDERICK LEVER

All persons having claims against the Estate of EARL FREDERICK LEVER, late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on the 17th day of May, 1993 are notified to send particulars to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of March, 2012, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim the undersigned shall not then have notice.

Dated this 6th day of February, 2012

Timothy Alan Lever and
Tracie Lemoine Miskolczi, Estate Trustees
by their solicitors
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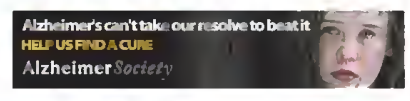

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Births

STRUGAR - Mark, Ashley (nee Gibson) and big brother Cameron of Fort Erie are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter/sister **FRANCES LEE,** born January 12, 2012 weighing 7 lbs. / 8 ozs. at Welland Hospital at 7:04 p.m. Proud grandparents are Wendy and Larry Gibson of Fort Erie and Nick (Grace) Strugar and the late Terry Lee Strugar of Fort Erie. Great grandmothers are Frances White of Dundas and Millie Zubovic of Fort Erie. Proud cousins are Dylan, Jocelyn, Mitchell, Cooper and now because I am 6 weeks old, Matthew. Special thanks to my guardian angel Grandma Terry, Daddy and Grandma Wendal for helping Mommy throughout my delivery. A huge thanks to the best doctor in the world, Dr. Beyani and to the amazing nurses Terry, Nancy and Sue.
12516893

Birthday greetings

Happy 80th Birthday Marty Boles
February 28th
Much love, Teresa, Tim, Donnie, Sandy, Joshua and Jared.
12516996

Graduations

Sam Dilts
Congratulations "Daddy"
on receiving the Dog Obedience/Trainer Diploma with Highest Honours
Love, Liam (Nannie & Family)
12517882

Forthcoming Marriages

stag & doe

for
Courtney McInerney & Brad Mott
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Food - Games - Prizes - $5
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Deaths

PIZZUTO, David Anthony - 1951-2012
David Anthony Pizzuto, an actor/director and musician, died Feb. 10 in St. Joseph's Hospital, Burbank, CA . He was 60.
David was born on July 9, 1951 in Fort Erie. He attended schools there end at Appleby College (pre high school) and then moved to Miami, FL where he went to high school end college.
For the last 11 years he lived in Los Angeles CA, appearing in film and television roles, nerreting trevel films end providing voiceover in video game productions. He was affiliated with the Screen Actors Guild and appeared in a SAG video, 'Day in the Life of a Voice Actor.'
In Miami he scouted end managed film locations. In earlier years he travelled extensively as a singer and drummer with a band.
Survivors include his mother, Margaret Anne Duchart McHale and stepfather, William, Seresote FL; stepbrother Williem end stepsisters Emily, Elise and Dorothy McHale, Miami FL; uncle Douglas Duchart and family and uncle William Duchart, Fort Erie.
A memorial will be held in Los Angeles on Feb. 25. Another memorial will be held in Fort Erie.
12517351

ROESKE, Eric - Passed away at Greater Niagara General Hospital on Feb. 17, 2012. He was predeceased by his wife Morag Roeske. He is survived by his children Jasmine, Aaro and Christine and their families. At his request cremation has taken plece and e privete femily service will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES,** 905-894-0120
12516827

In memoriam

KATHLEEN MARTIN
Remembering e wonderful deughter who passed away February 29, 1992.
Today is remembered and quietly kept,
No words ere needed, we will never forget.
Deep in our hearts you will always stay,
Loved and remembered every day.
Love you always, Mom
12514689

In memoriam

NIELSEN, CLIFF
In loving memory of a dear husband and father who passed away 35 years ago, February 26, 1977.
Always in our hearts.
Forever in our thoughts.
Love Alweys Betty, Tom, end Lori.
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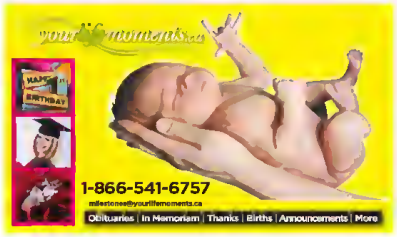

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The Fort Erie Major Novice Jr. Meteors are the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA)'s 'Playdown Champions' and will advance to the next round of the OMHA's finals.

Major Novices add another victory to stellar season

Last weekend, the Fort Erie Major Novice Jr. Meteors battled in St. Catharines for the title of Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) Playdown Champions.

The team represented Fort Erie with a record of 5-0, going undefeated into the final game against the Grimsby Peach Kings. Fort Erie was triumphant in a 4-1 win over the Peach Kings and will now move on to represent Fort Erie, in the OMHA Finals later this month.

Head coach Mike Mehlenbacher, assistant coaches Brett Boake and Tom Hall, trainer Mike Kelley and team manager Paul Kelley, have lead this group of young men in a victorious season with only two regular season losses.

The team wishes to extend a huge congratulations to the boys for all their hard work and hours of dedication and to an "amazing" season thus far.

The squad consists of Kevin Haley, Dylan Divinney, Mason Arbic, Blake Train, Jaxon Boake, Michael Willey, Owen Kelley, Blake Hall, Micah Stewart, Tyson Richer, Jackson Burd, Josh Bourdon, Bryson Allen, Owen Mehlenbacher, Zane Gilmore, Campbell LaRoche and Ethan Sawyer.

Meteors getting ready for postseason

Matt McNevin
Special to the Times

Despite a late push to tie the game, the Fort Erie Meteors fell to the Niagara Falls Canucks 5-4 on Saturday night... their second loss to the Canucks in as many nights.

The Meteors, who lost to the Canucks 12-8 on Friday, were able to score a power play goal with 39 seconds remaining in the third period to cut the lead to one, but weren't able to score the equalizer.

Fort Erie forward Jordan Bailey, who scored the Meteors' fourth goal, said the game was a "good hard-fought battle."

"We didn't give up. Even in the last minute, we kept things going and that's really big for our team. We've been on a roll lately and we've got to keep that going."

Meteors head coach Clint Strachan said the team is "feeling good" about themselves after the back-to-back games.

"That's two games in two nights against the same team – probably the team we're going to face in the first round of the playoffs – and we went toe-to-toe with them in both games. They should be worried, and that's what we want."

Fort Erie goalie Matt Stuart, who was pulled on Friday after allowing seven goals in the first period, got the start again Saturday night.

"We wanted to give Stuart another crack at these guys and he played an unbelievable game," Strachan said of his choice to start Stuart again.

"He kept us in it and you can't ask for much more from your goaltender."

Stuart says he wanted Saturday's game to be redemption for himself and his team, to prove they were better than they'd played the night before.

"We're going to contend with them and no matter what we're going to bounce back, regardless of any outcome."

With three games remaining in the regular season after last Saturday, Strachan said the team is ready for the playoffs.

"We finish out the season at the end of the week and I'd like to go into the playoffs with some wins behind us. We're playing our best hockey right now and we're getting pumped up. We're ready."

> **"We didn't give up. Even in the last minute, we kept things going and that's really big for our team."**
>
> *— Jordan Bailey*

The Meteors lost 9-7 to Port Colborne on Monday and faced the Thorold Blackhawks on Thursday.

Tonight is the final regular season game for the Meteors, when the Port Colborne Pirates sail into town for a 7:15 puck drop at the Leisureplex.

The Meteors are also offering their annual Kids Night on Saturday.

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